In the Claims:

1-54.   (Cancelled)

55.   **(Currently Amended)**   A method comprising:
populating an access control list with a destination user group identifier, wherein

said populating is performed by a network device and comprises

sending a request to another network device, and

receiving a response from said another network device, ~~wherein~~

said response ~~includes~~ **comprises** said destination user group identifier, ~~wherein~~

said access control list is a role-based access control list,

said destination user group identifier identifies a destination user group of a
destination,

said access control list comprises a source user group field configured to store a
source user group identifier and a destination user group field configured
to store a destination user group identifier,

said source user group comprises a plurality of source network devices,

said source user group is assigned to said source based on a role of said source,

said destination user group comprises a plurality of destination network devices,

said destination user group is assigned to said destination based on a role of said
destination, and

said access control list is configured to allow said source user group identifier and
said destination user group identifier to be compared.

56.   Cancelled

57.   Cancelled

58.   (Original) The method of claim 55, further comprising:

comparing a user group of a packet with said destination user group.

59.   (Original) The method of claim 58, wherein

said user group of said packet is a source user group,

said destination user group is a user group of a destination of said packet, and

said destination is said destination of said packet.

60.   (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein

said source user group is assigned to a source of said packet based on a role of said
        source, and

said destination user group is assigned to said destination based on a role of said
        destination.

61.   (Original) The method of claim 59, wherein

said source user group is indicated by a source user group identifier stored in said packet,
        and

said destination user group is indicated by a destination user group stored in a network
        device receiving said packet.

62.   (Original) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

determining said source user group; and

determining said destination user group by looking up said destination user group in an
        access control list.

63.   (Cancelled)

64.   (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein said determining said source user group comprises:

     extracting a source user group identifier from said packet, wherein

          said source user group identifier identifies said source user group.

65.   **(Currently Amended)**   A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to populate an

     access control list with a destination user group identifier, wherein

     said ~~to populate is performed~~ **first set of instructions are executed** by a

          network device and ~~comprises~~ **comprise**

          ~~sending~~ **a first subset of instructions, executable on said computer**

              system, configured to send a request to another network device,

              and

          ~~receiving~~ **a second subset of instructions, executable on said computer**

              system, configured to receive a response from said another

              network device, ~~wherein~~

     said response ~~includes~~ **comprises** said destination user group identifier, ~~wherein~~

     said access control list is a role-based access control list,

     said destination user group identifier identifies a destination user group of a

          destination,

     said access control list comprises a source user group field configured to store a

          source user group identifier and a destination user group field configured

          to store a destination user group identifier,

     said source user group comprises a plurality of source network devices,

     said source user group is assigned to said source based on a role of said source,

     said destination user group comprises a plurality of destination network devices,

     said destination user group is assigned to said destination based on a role of said

          destination, and

     said access control list is configured to allow said source user group identifier and

          said destination user group identifier to be compared; and

computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in

     said computer readable storage media.

66.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 65, further comprising:

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to compare

  a user group of a packet with said destination user group.

67.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 66, wherein

said user group of said packet is a source user group,

said destination user group is a user group of a destination of said packet, and

said destination is said destination of said packet.

68.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 67, further comprising:

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to determine

  said source user group; and

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to determine

  said destination user group by looking up said destination user group in an access

  control list.

69.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 68, wherein said third set of

instructions comprises:

a first subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to

  extracting a source user group identifier from said packet, wherein

  said source user group identifier identifies said source user group.

70.   **(Currently Amended)**   An apparatus comprising:

means for populating an access control list with a destination user group identifier,

  wherein

  said **means for** populating is ~~performed by~~ **comprised in** a network device

    [[and]] **,**

  said means for populating comprises

    means for sending a request to another network device, and

    means for receiving a response from said another network device,

      ~~wherein~~

  said response ~~includes~~ **comprises** said destination user group identifier, ~~wherein~~

said access control list is a role-based access control list,

said destination user group identifier identifies a destination user group of a

destination,

said access control list comprises a source user group field configured to store a

source user group identifier and a destination user group field configured

to store a destination user group identifier,

said source user group comprises a plurality of source network devices,

said source user group is assigned to said source based on a role of said source,

said destination user group comprises a plurality of destination network devices,

said destination user group is assigned to said destination based on a role of said

destination, and

said access control list is configured to allow said source user group identifier and

said destination user group identifier to be compared.

71.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 70, further comprising:

means for comparing a user group of a packet with said destination user group.

72.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein

said user group of said packet is a source user group,

said destination user group is a user group of a destination of said packet, and

said destination is said destination of said packet.

73.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 72, further comprising:

means for determining said source user group; and

means for determining said destination user group by looking up said destination user

group in an access control list.

74.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein said means for determining said

source user group comprises:

means for extracting a source user group identifier from said packet, wherein

said source user group identifier identifies said source user group.

75 – 117.   (Cancelled)